



NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Number 10

Released: June 10, 2004

VIRGINIA'S WHEAT FORECAST UNCHANGED

The 2004 wheat crop is expected to total nearly 9.77 million bushels, unchanged from the previous forecast, according to the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service. If realized, producers will harvest 33 percent above last year's 7.36 million bushels but 6 percent below the 10.37 million bushels produced in 2002. Producers in the Commonwealth are expected to harvest 155,000 acres of wheat that will yield an average of 63 bushels per acre, 17 bushels per acre above 2003 but equal to 2002. This is unchanged from the previous month's forecast. In general, small grains are in fair to excellent condition.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT FROM MAY

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.53 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the May 1 forecast and 10 percent below 2003. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.6 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, unchanged from May 1. Hard Red production is down 3 percent from a month ago to 887 million bushels. Soft Red is down less than 1 percent from last month, and now totals 397 million bushels. White production totals 247 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month.

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